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18 November 1982

Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 248

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18 November 1982

WORLDWIDE REPORT
TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 248

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ORDERS PLACED FOR ELECTRONIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 1 Oct 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, September 30.

TWENTY-FIVE electronic local exchanges totalling 195,000 lines are to be imported from the French firm, Cit Alcatel, which will collaborate with the Indian Telephone Industries in establishing the first electronic switching factory.

The equipment to be imported will be of the same type proposed to be manufactured indigenously with the French firm's assistance. Details of the order to be placed with the French firm are being finalised. The exchange will become progressively operational from the end of 1983-84.

Clearance is awaited from the department of electronics for plans to import medium-size containerised exchanges of 2000-3000 lines capacity. It is proposed to import 60,000 lines.

These are in addition to orders placed with Fujitsu of Japan for the import of SPC electronic local exchanges totalling 175,000 lines. These will become operational from 1984-85.

The global tender for the second electronic switching factory (of the same capacity as the first: five lakh lines) is under evaluation.

Further, orders have been placed with Siemens of West Germany for the supply of 174,000 electronic telex units.

The communications minister, Mr. A. P. Sharma, listed the measures as part of the programme by the department for automation of all manual telephone exchanges working in district headquarters.

Of the 7,890 telephone exchanges working as on March 31, 1981, about 1,350 were manual with a total equipped capacity of 3.58-lakh lines.

Mr. Sharma said the perspective plan of the department proposed complete automation of local services by 1990. But because of limited supplies of switching equipment from indigenous sources, and to restrict the imports to the barest minimum, only a modest programme of automation had been taken up during 1980-85.

Regarding restructuring the RMS set-up, the minister said an informal study group comprising senior officials has been set up to examine its working in the context of growing volume. The problems under examination include delay of mail, particularly second class mail.

CSO: 5500/7019

MORE ON PLANS TO IMPORT TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 30.

There is, at present, no proposal under the consideration of the Government to convert Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati, the two Hindi news agencies into a unified agency, the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Mr. N. K. P. Salve, told the consultative committee of MPs attached to his Ministry here today.

The Government, consistent with its commitment to the freedom of the press, considered it appropriate that the news agencies decide such issues on their own, he said.

Replying to a discussion on the subject, the Minister made it clear that the Government had not taken over the ownership of Hindustan Samachar. The agency is registered under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 1972, and the Registrar of Cooperative Societies had superseded the managing committee and appointed an administrator to manage its affairs.

Mr. Salve refuted any suggestion that the Government had taken any initiative to bringing about a merger or amalgamation of the Hindi news agencies.

Control not sought: The allegation that Samachar Bharati was sought to be nursed or nourished by the Government was also wrong. The Centre did not hold any shares in the news agency. Some State Governments might have bought some shares but this did not mean that the agency was controlled by the Government.

Mr. Salve said the financial position and crisis in the news agencies had been a matter

of concern to the Government. If the news agencies were furnished, it certainly would not augur well for the media as a whole.

He pointed out that All India Radio was only a customer of news agencies. Within these constraints it had tried to be as liberal as possible. The amount paid to the four news agencies in 1980-81 was Rs. 80.34 lakhs as subscription by AIR and Doordarshan. In spite of this "huge payment," the proportion of news material taken from the news agencies by the two media was only 40 per cent. There was thus a certain degree of consideration shown to the news agencies, he added.

Mr. Salve hinted that it would be the policy of his Ministry to augment AIR's own sources of news.

Financial aid: Referring to the demand for more financial assistance to the news agencies, he said if the agencies had to be really independent, they must stand on their own legs. "The Government could not keep them perennially on oxygen."

During the discussion, members expressed different views on the question of financial assistance to the news agencies. While some felt that the Government should extend more assistance to them, others maintained that there could be no spoon feeding.

One member said that AIR's subscription to news agencies was not merely a commercial transaction. The question was whether the Government wanted news agencies to survive or not.—PTI.

SCIENCE MINISTER ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON SATELLITES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Oct 82 p 5

[Text] The INTELSAT had confirmed availability of two spare transponders for use by India which would help restore skeleton essential satellite based telecommunications services in the country till INSAT-1B was put into operation, Minister of State for Science C.P.N. Singh informed the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, reports PTI.

One transponder would be taken on lease from INTELSAT for one year from 1 November for the telecast of Asian Games, Mr Singh said.

Meanwhile, INSAT-1B was at an advanced stage of fabrication and necessary changes and improvements would be made in it in the light of INSAT-1A anomalies, the review of which is expected to be over by the end of this month, he said.

Soon after the review, the schedule for the launch of INSAT-1B would be re-drawn, Mr Singh told Mr Rupehand Lal and Mr R.P. Yadav.

Mr Singh said that operation of seven telecom earth stations had already been restored by extending the last transponder INTELSAT lease.

The total expenditure of INSAT-1 space segment as of 31 August last was about Rs 83.16 crores, the Minister informed Mr Satyanarayan Jatiya.

INSAT-1 was planned as an operational system for delivery of telecom, meteorology, TV and radio services, he said.

The approved capital outlay for the INSAT-1 space segment consisting of two INSAT-1 spacecraft in orbit and a master control facility on grounds for their control and management was Rs 113 crores.

Mr Singh said that Ford Aerospace and another company were the only two firms which responded to the tenders for the spacecraft. The entire negotiations and sanction took place during the Janata regime and the present Government merely added one aspect, TV for rural masses, which the Janata Prime Minister had vetoed.

The Minister also disclosed in the House that the Government has told the insurers of INSAT-1A the New Indian Assurance Company of the 'total loss' of the satellite and expects to receive full payment of 64.9 million dollars.

The company had agreed for the launch all risks insurance cover, it had in turn reinsured bulk of the risk in foreign re-insurance markets, the Minister told Mr Era Anbarasu and Mr N.E. Horo.

CSO: 5500/7022

MINISTER TELLS POLICY ON HINDI NEWS AGENCIES

Madras THE HINDU in English 1 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Sept. 30.

Mr. A. P. Sharma, Union Communications Minister, said here today that there would be a progressive automatisisation of all the manual telephone exchanges in the country for which priority has been given by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Addressing a meeting of members of the Parliamentary consultative committee for his Ministry, he said out of the 7,890 telephone exchanges in the country at the end of March 31, 1981, about 1,350 were manual with a total equipped capacity of 3.58-lakh lines. There are manual exchanges at 150 out of 391 district headquarters and priority allotment of automatic exchanges has already been issued. There is also a proposal to import a few containerised telephone exchanges to be located at some of these district headquarters. Building exchanges for these will be minimum.

Mr. Sharma said though the perspective plan of the P and T Department had proposed complete automatisisation of local services, only a modest programme could be taken up during 1980-85 due to limited supplies of switching equipment from indigenous sources and out of necessity to restrict imports. The present programme of automatisisation will cover a few of the manual exchanges still working at Imphal and Agartala as also some exchanges of over 1,500-line capacities. The bulk of the automatisisation will have to be taken up during the Seventh Plan.

Electronic switching equipment: The Department has decided to import electronic switching equipment during the Sixth Plan to meet immediate needs. As a short-term measure, orders have been placed with a Japanese firm for the import of 25 SPC (stored programme control) electronic local exchanges totalling 1.75-lakh lines. These exchanges will be installed at the four metropolitan cities.

The Department has finalised plans to import medium-sized containerised exchanges of 2,000 and 3,000 lines capacity totalling 60,000 lines. These exchanges will be installed at various places in the country.

The Minister said the Department proposed a similar change-over to electronic technology in respect of telex exchanges also. Orders have been placed with a German firm for the supply of electronic telex equipment for installation at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. At Bombay, the first phase has become operational. Equipment is awaited for Delhi and Madras.

Regarding restructure of the RMS set-up, the Minister said an informal study group comprising a few senior officers has been set up to examine the working in the context of increasing mail volume. The problems under examination include delays to mail, particularly second class mail, due to insufficient accommodation in vans.

BRIEFS

ROHINI SATELLITE FABRICATION--Bangalore, Oct 17 (PTI)--The state-owned Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) today released to the Post and Telegraphs Department a one-way TV microwave link in 6 GHZ band. The equipment, designed and developed by the ITI, will provide radio relay facility for the video and audio signals received from the P and T microwave station at Jaipur, says an ITI release. ITI had already supplied three similar links to Doordarshan for linking their studios to the transmitters at Hyderabad, Jullundur and Lucknow. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Oct 82 p 10]

MICROWAVE TELEVISION LINK--Bangalore, Oct 18--The Rohini satellite to be launched by an indigenously developed SLV-III vehicle has been fabricated by the Indian Space Research Organization here, reports PTI. The 40-kg satellite is now subjected to thermovac tests which would be completed shortly. The director of the Rohini project, Dr Tarsen Singh, told reporters. The satellite would undergo various tests, including flight tests, before being ready for launch from the Shar centre in Sriharikota. The satellite was originally scheduled to be put into orbit as part of the development programme by the first half of this year. But the launching had to be postponed owing to the failure of the Rohini mission last year. Since it was shot into a lower nominal altitude, the mission originally estimated at 90 days was short-lived with the spacecraft launched on May 31 re-entering the atmosphere on June 8, the ninth day itself. The low altitude was achieved despite the fact that the fourth stage motor--which was used in Apple as an apogee boost motor--functioned normally providing a little excess thrust than predicted. The SLV-III launcher which will carry the present Rohini is being fabricated by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre at Trivandrum. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 82 p 8]

GANGTOK RADIO STATION--Sikkim has come on the broadcasting map of the country with the commissioning of the Gangtok station of All-India Radio on 1 October. This is the 86th center of the national broadcasting network. The installation of the 10-kilowatt transmitter and construction of the studio complex were complete in a record time of 5 months. [BK041007 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 82 BK]

TELEX TO BHOPAL--Indore, October 3--All the district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh will have direct telegraph links with the capital, Bhopal, by December 1983--26 years after Madhya Pradesh's formation under the states reorganisation commission (SRC). After inaugurating the Rajmohalla departmental telegraph office, the fourth in the city, Mr J.P. Gupta, general manager, telecommunications, Madhya Pradesh circle, told newsmen that the first 2,000-line electronic telephone exchange in the state would be set up at Ratlam by 1985. He said the Nandalal D.T.O. at Indore had been provided with telex P.C.O. facilities for inland and foreign telex bookings. Later, Mr Babulal Baheti, president of the Malav development council urged Mr Gupta to expedite the construction of the Rs. 26-lakh C.T.O. building at Indore. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Oct 82 p 22]

CSO: 5500/7021

TELEPHONE, TELEX SATELLITE SERVICE BEGIN

Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 17 Oct 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

The Sagarmatha Satellite Earth Station goes into operation today facilitating a direct telecommunication link via satellite between Nepal and rest of the world. Public and commercial connections for telephone calls and telex will be beamed via the eleven meter wide disc antenna at the earth station near Thankot to the INTELSAT V F-4 satellite thirty-five thousand kilometers over the Indian Ocean.

The earth station, built with a Rs. ten million investment from the Nepal Telecommunications Corporation (NTC) and a 3.1 million pound sterling aid from the British Government, will make overseas phone and telex easier and clearer, it is understood.

The earth station will be able to handle eight channels with an ultimate capacity for up to sixty channels, according to Mr. Bidya Dhar Bajracharya, the project chief. Two circuits will be linked to the UK which will handle all outgoing and incoming calls from

Europe, North America and Africa, two circuits for Japan, S.E. Asia and Singapore, two circuits to Hong Kong which will also connect eight other countries. India will be linked by only one channel as well as a coaxial cable link at Birgunj which will connect the microwave networks of the two countries, it is learnt.

Telephone calls to Delhi via microwave, will cost Rs. 6 per minute, while the satellite link will cost Rs. 81 for three first minutes and twenty seven rupees every extra minute. A satellite connection, however, will be quicker and more reliable according to a telecommunications official.

An overseas call can be immediate, but this will depend on "operator efficiency", the same official said. Altogether fifteen operators have been given special training by the corporation, and the modern facilities at the earth station near Thankot will be manned by Nepalis, it is also learnt.

The earth station project got its stamp of approval in February 1979 when an aid agreement with the British Government was signed. The site at Thankot was chosen taking into account minimum radio and microwave interference. The Sagarmatha Satellite station is connected to the international telephone and telex exchange at Tripureswar via microwave. Since the two stations are not 'in line of sight, a passive repeater station has been put up at Naikap Hill.

The facilities at Thankot therefore take incoming calls in microwave, convert them into voice frequency, boost the signals by means of a three kilowatt transmitter amplifier and shoot the signals into space to the Indian Ocean satellite, from where there calls will be automatically directed to their destination. At present the station can handle twenty-five telephone calls simultaneously, but this capacity can be increased to 125, it is understood.

The satellite link-up will involve a lapse of 0.6 seconds for a signal to be bounced off the satellite even though the message will be travelling at the speed of light.

Overseas callers in Kathmandu have to dial "07", while Bangladesh and India via microwave will be put through by dialling "09". A microwave link between Bhadrapur and Bangladesh has also recently been completed NTC sources said.

Will there be an increase in the number of overseas trunk calls? "We anticipate a 200 percent increase, and our present facilities have taken this into account, Mr. Bhupa Raj Pandey,

acting general manager of NTC told RISING NEPAL in Thankot Friday. Whenever microwave communications have been replaced by satellite, there has always been a tremendous increase in telephone and telex traffic, Mr. Pandey added. There are no facilities for international "collect" calls, he disclosed, although negotiations are on.

CSO: 5500/4306

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

RADIO STATIONS' LICENSES--Buenos Aires, 28 Oct (DYN)--The executive branch today awarded two 15-year licenses for running the radio stations LU 9 of Mar Del Plata and LT 2 of Rosario, according to an official report. The radio station LU 9 was awarded to Radioemisora Cultural S.A., which is managed among others by Jose Maria Munoz, Jorge Talamoni, Maria Esther Perez, Albizu Fernandez Cortes and by Jaime Monk. The radio station LT 2 was awarded to Television Litoral S.A., which is managed by Carlos Gollan. Similarly, a television station in the city of Parana was awarded to El Supremo Entrerriano S.A., which is managed by Julio Vizental and Juan Carlos Vizental. [PY312029 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2039 GMT 28 Oct 82 PY]

NEW SUBMARINE CABLE--Buenos Aires, 21 Oct (TELAM)--The National Telecommunications Company [ENTEL] today officially dedicated the Atlantis intercontinental submarine cable which will have 472 world communications channels. This submarine cable is connected between Recife in Brazil and Dakar in Senegal, and between Dakar and Burgau in Portugal. According to ENTEL, the total cost of this system is 1 billion francs. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1650 GMT 21 Oct 82 PY]

CSO: 5500/2011

BERMUDA

BRIEFS

FM RADIO MAST--Bermuda may get a third FM radio station early next year when St George's Broadcasting erects a new radio mast in Sandys. The Development Applications Board has approved an application by the company which operates the "Radio VSB" AM radio station to put up a 175-foot mast on Boaz Island. An initial application had been turned down when the D.A.B. upheld objections lodged by the Sandys Development Group. St George's Broadcasting subsequently modified its application. Operations Manager Mr Chris Lodge said yesterday that after a 21-day appeal period following the D.A.B. decision, the company would start erecting the mast that is already here. He added that the new mast could beam FM signals, and since the company has an FM licence, a new station would be aired as soon as the mast went up. "It will take two or three months to erect the mast, and we ambitiously look for a third FM station in the Island by early next year," said Mr Lodge. St George's currently has a temporary "coat-hanger" mast in Dockyard--a piece of wire spanning two towers. It will be replaced by the new tower. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Oct 82 p 2]

CSO: 5500/7509

TELEPHONE COMPANY TO RAISE RATES, INCREASE SERVICE

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Oct 82 p A 1

[Text] The Telephone Company of Chile is involved in studying the new Telecommunications Act as far as adjusting its rates is concerned. In the opinion of the company's top officials, a rate change is indispensable to maintain the firm's operational capacity.

The new legal text, published in the Official Gazette last Saturday, deregulates those rates. It states that they "shall be freely agreed upon between the providers of the service and the users."

Ivan van de Wyngard, the company's general manager, said in a press conference yesterday that before this law came on the scene, and even before exchange controls were eliminated, the company had made a presentation at the Ministry of Economics requesting a substantial increase in rates.

He pointed out that current rates have been in effect since April 1981 for local service, and since 1980 for long distance service. He added that the firm's present situation is not good, not because of its operational performance, which has improved considerably since 1977, but due to factors beyond its control, such as the devaluation of the peso.

Van de Wyngard indicated that as a consequence of this situation, this year the company will suffer losses of about 1.1 billion pesos, which will mean no dividends for stockholders. The company is owned basically by the Production Development Corporation (CORFO), which holds 92 percent of the stock, and by private parties, who hold the remaining 8 percent.

The general manager added that the company is carefully studying its rate policy, because the Telecommunications Act sets up a mechanism for ensuring free competition and preventing monopolies or distortions. Through this provision, the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications and that of Economics will be able to establish maximum prices for the services that are provided under such circumstances.

In that case, the Telecommunications Act states that "the prices or rates to be set shall be determined according to the direct and necessary costs for producing the service, and the profit margin indicated by the aforementioned ministries."

Stockholders

David Barros, the company director who represents the private stockholders, was also present at the press conference. In this regard, he expressed his satisfaction with the "more aggressive" attitude "adopted by the company, which should be on the cutting edge in this technology."

He added that "if we want Chile to enjoy good telephone service, we need solid companies. In this regard, I think CORFO's policy in terms of dividends was excessive, and did not allow for capitalization. Then when the firm needed to expand, it had to obtain foreign credit, and it was hit hard by the recent devaluation of the peso."

He went on to say that "it should not be forgotten that the rate for local service in Chile is one of the lowest in the world, and if we want to maintain the company's operational capacity, its rates will have to be adjusted. I hope this adjustment will take place soon, and that it is a substantial one; it cannot be otherwise," he said.

Profits

In answer to a question, Ivan van de Wyngard stated that the company's profits amounted to 2.6 percent in 1981, with 3 percent being budgeted for this year. "The losses already mentioned, however, will mean negative profit figures, fluctuating around -5 percent," he stated.

He added that the profits expected for this year are still low compared to other public service firms; the ideal figure would be 10 percent.

Bidding

With respect to the announcement that the Telephone Company will be up for bidding, the general manager repeated the statements of government sources concerning the sale of the firm to the private sector.

"However," he added, "we have yet to define the manner in which the transfer will take place. Several alternatives are being studied now; one of them calls for the State to retain control of a third of the stock, with another third being acquired by the AFP [expansion unknown] and the remainder being oriented toward consumers."

He explained that there is no deadline for the sale, and that the intention of keeping the company in national hands does not at all imply that it will have to be divided.

Expansion

Later on, Ivan van de Wyngard mentioned the project for expanding telephone lines in the cities of Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion. He explained that "this concentration was prompted by instructions from the government that limited the company's activities to these cities and ordered that it be transferred to the private sector in the rest of the country."

"Later, those instructions were changed to the effect that the entire enterprise was to be transferred, but the concentration of lines in Santiago, Valparaiso and Concepcion had to be maintained because of commitments made to the manufacturer and because work was already underway."

In that regard, he indicated that accusations that the company is orienting its new lines toward sectors where private firms were interested in building installations "are totally groundless."

He explained that the company's expansion plan entails the installation of 106,000 new lines in the three cities mentioned above, and upgrading to digital systems another 72,000 lines, whose average age is 50 years.

He pointed out that the first lines will begin service the first quarter of 1983, and that the entire project will be completed by October 1984, with an investment of \$120 million.

The company currently has 429,000 lines installed throughout the country, so the expansion will make a total of 535,000.

He reported that a new expansion project is under study, to be implemented after the aforementioned one. It will involve a total of 200,000 new lines by the second half of 1985. With that, the country will approach the goal of orderly growth advanced by the president of the republic, aiming at 14 telephones per 100 residents by the end of the decade.

He stated that another project being developed will improve the present system of responding to calls for repairs; it is based on preventive maintenance, and will be implemented in the second half of 1983. "With that, we will have continuous service, and the consumer will not even be aware that the equipment was down at a given moment," he said.

He concluded by saying that a system is being studied that will provide consumers with different services, such as the time, temperature and weather, as can be obtained in the principal cities of the world.

8926

CSO: 5500/2007

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

METEOROLOGICAL COMMUNICATIONS LINK--The satellite link for meteorological communications between Colombia and Venezuela was inaugurated over the weekend in a ceremony attended by ministers and officials from both countries. The circuit, which is exclusively dedicated to the exchange of meteorological data, is a part of the world system of meteorological telecommunications, which is guided by the UN World Meteorology Organization. [Text] [PA190343 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/2526

COSTA RICA

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PLAN TO EXTEND RADIO, TV BROADCASTING

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Sep 82 p 2

/Text/ Costa Rica announced yesterday that it will fight to recover its sovereignty over radio broadcasting in the northern part of the country.

A vast area on the Nicaraguan frontier is dominated by Nicaraguan radio and TV, and Nicaragua's ideological penetration has increased during the past months.

Journalist Armando Vargas Araya, minister of information and communication, made this announcement, and he reiterated that "the recovery of Costa Rican sovereignty over radio broadcasting in the northern region is being given priority by President Monge."

Vargas Araya gave details on the unfavorable Costa Rican situation in relation to Nicaragua in radio and TV in that region.

In 1981, Costa Rica announced plans to install two additional radio broadcasting stations whereas Nicaragua had 69 stations, with an output of 1074 kilowatts.

In Los Chiles, six Nicaraguan and only three Costa Rican stations are received well. In La Cruz, three Costa Rican and five Nicaraguan stations are received.

In Liberia, five Nicaraguan and five Costa Rican stations are received.

Decisions

Minister Vargas reported that the first alternative for solving the problem is to have all the radio broadcasting stations operate at the maximum authorized power and with maximum efficiency. The second alternative, recommended by a mission of the International Telecommunications Union, UIT, is to increase the Radio Nacional power to 50 kilowatts. The third alternative is to go ahead with the rural radio program which involves installing in the northern area radio broadcasting stations in Pital de San Carlos, Notoya, La Cruz, Upala, Los Chiles and Barra del Colorado. The fourth alternative is to prepare an incentive plan to encourage commercial radio broadcasting stations to install transmitters to repeat their programs in the northern area.

Vargas Araya believes that "this is a national problem which should be solved by all Costa Ricans."

On shortwave Costa Rica has a power of 13.5 kilowatts installed in the northern region while Nicaragua has 11 times that much power, that is, 153 kilowatts.

On shortwave, Costa Rica will begin with transmitters of three kilowatts on Radio Nacional while Nicaragua has 50 and 100 kilowatt transmitters. A program will be set up for Costa Ricans living abroad.

Television

The following will be done: a) Channel 13 will install a 100 watt repeater on the La Cruz tower and b) Channel 7 will install a repeater in the Cana Dulces hills. In addition, Channel 13 will acquire a 100 watt repeater for installation on Matapalo hill and will replace its 6 watt repeater in Ciudad Quesada with a 100 watt repeater to cover San Carlos, Guatuso, Upala and Los Chiles.

The government is also willing to help commercial TV stations increase their output so as to cover the vast frontier area now dominated by the Sandino Nicaraguan TV.

9204

CSO: 5500

GRENADA

BRIEFS

UNESCO CULTURAL MISSION--St Georges, Grenada, 31 Oct (CANA)--A consultant from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has arrived in Grenada on a three-week assignment. The consultant, Howard Needham, came to Grenada at the request of the Ministry of Education to assist in the area of media production. The Government Information Service (GIS) said he would survey media production facilities with the aim of making recommendations on improving them. He will hold discussions with the Free West Indian Publishing Company, the national in-service teacher education programme, schools and other bodies involved in public education, GIS reported. "Discussions would also be held with teachers on producing teaching aids. Parts of his assignment is to hold discussions with officials of the Ministry of Education and the UNESCO national commission," it added. In Grenada, the newspapers and the lone radio station are state-owned. [Text] [FL011615 Bridgetown CANA in English 2225 GMT 31 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/2013

JAMAICA

BRIEFS

COLOR TELEVISION EXPANSION--Kingston, Jamaica, 31 Oct (CANA)--Jamaica should have full colour transmission by the end of the year, according to the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation (JBC), which runs the lone TV station here. Director of JBC, David Mais, said efforts were now being made to expand the limited scale of colour transmission, using the national television service committee system. He said the system was compatible with the black and white sets used here and these would need very little modification to receive colour programmes. On the question of modification, Mr Mais said this would be as inexpensive as possible to the owners of black and white sets. He added that a deal was being worked out with distributors across the island to supply component parts on a bulk basis. [Text] [FL011705 Bridgetown CANA in English 2309 GMT 31 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/2012

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

BISSAU-DAKAR UNDERWATER CABLE--Bissau, 30 Oct (AFP)--The installation of an underwater telecommunications cable between Bissau and Dakar has been decided on following the meeting of the "Portugal-Guinea-Bissau Joint Cooperation Great Commission," a communique issued on Saturday in Bissau said. This cable, which will probably be connected to the one linking Senegal to Portugal and to Brazil, will be financed 50 percent by the Portuguese government, the communique said. The Guinea-Bissau delegation to the meeting of the joint commission was led by Avito Da Silva, minister of education, while Portugal's was headed by Luis Fontoura, secretary of state for international cooperation. [Excerpts] [AB301111 Paris AFP in French 0929 GMT 30 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/24

REVISION OF MAURITIUS BROADCASTING CORPORATION LAW DISCUSSED

Draft Amendments Proposed

Port Louis L'EXPRESS in French 6 Oct 82 pp 1,6

[Text] In submitting the draft law to revise the MBC [Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation] Act for a second reading, Mr Harish Boodhoo said that he was attempting to lay the foundations for a new news, education and entertainment structure, one which will open "the doors and the windows of the MBC" to the events in and the culture of the Third World. He announced that the government intends to review the concept of news as it is conceived by the France-Press Agency (AFP) and Reuter. The government will in addition have to obtain cultural programs from the Third World.

Mr Boodhoo said that the people expect a great deal of the MBC following the 11 June elections. They hope that, by the nature and quality of the programs the MBC presents, it will reflect and encourage the values, cultures and aspirations of the people of Mauritius. He said that the director general of the MBC will have his full support if he pursues what the people want. "The task of the MBC will not be complete unless a new philosophy is introduced into the media in general," the minister said.

He said that if the government is interested in the media, it must also be interested in what is happening in the written press, "which with no possibility of a network of special correspondents and with over-reliance on Reuter and AFP makes us see the West in our standard of judgment," Mr Boodhoo added. He said that he hopes to undertake negotiations with a view to securing the services of two new Third World agencies.

In addition, he proposes to seek the aid of the University of Mauritius in training journalists, "which would help raise the standard of our press generally."

As information minister, Mr Boodhoo believes that his role includes among other things:

1. Promotion of the ideals of a social democracy;
2. Motivation of the people to rebuild the economy; and
3. Consolidation of national unity, identity and awareness.

In the minister's view, the draft law implements a proposal contained in the program address of the new government, serving to replace the law which has governed the MBC to date. This draft law is being introduced after careful examination and consultations with the individuals involved in various sectors.

Mr Boodhoo said that it is regrettable that various reactions have been noted since the publication of the draft law, some of them "based on a superficial interpretation of the draft law." Some people have very simply focused their sights on the authority granted the minister who is responsible for news and the dissemination of it. In his eyes, the intention of these individuals is clear: to create confusion in the public mind by making it appear that the minister wants to take the place of the MBC leadership in order to make it his personal preserve.

He expressed regret that the detractors of the draft law, while stressing such terms as "with the approval of the minister," have overlooked the "democratic framework" of the draft law. "We are familiar with the abuses committed under the old legislation and the scandalous partiality it favored," the minister added. In his view, the authority conferred upon the minister by the draft law is designed to assure democratic control of the corporation. There is no dictatorship nor even any "autocracy," the minister said. "The draft law avoids the concentration of power in the hands of a board, the director general and the minister. The exercise of authority will be carried out through dialogue and consultation and in the higher interests of the nation," the minister said.

The old legislation, he noted, "provided for a very special chain of command" which put all of the authority in the hands of the prime minister. In this connection, he quoted section 23 (4) of the old legislation, which provided the following: "In the exercise of his functions under this act the director general shall act in accordance with such directions as he may from time to time receive from the minister." It was clear, then, that the director general was not responsible, nor did he even have to report to the board of the MBC, and the board had no control over the actions of the director general. In Mr Boodhoo's view, this paved the way for numerous abuses. In this connection, the MBC "failed to provide a national service. It did a major disservice to the nation," the minister added.

Under the present legislation, the board of directors becomes in theory and in practice "the executive body of the corporation." He emphasized that the board of directors will be invested with all of the corporation's authority, and the agreement of the minister will no longer be required for the signing or implementation of a contract. Mr Boodhoo gave the chamber assurance that it is not his intention to scuttle the MBC. "On numerous occasions, we have stated that we respect and favor the ideals of social democracy. We reiterate that again today. In the course of these last 3 months, the MBC has functioned freely and without interference," the minister added.

"I have strictly refrained from using my authority for partisan purposes or to project my own image," Minister Boodhoo stated.

Quoting the provisions contained in the British legislation governing the BBC, he said that the secretary of state is invested with increased authority and that he can "from time to time by notice in writing require the corporation to refrain at any specified time or at all times from sending any matter or matters of any class specified in such notice." This clause, the minister said, allows the British government to have the last word on points which in its opinion might lead to dispute.

The BBC is also prohibited from expressing its own views on current affairs or on matters of general policy.

Referring also to the French legislation, Mr Boodhoo said: "The French government may at any time undertake the programming and dissemination of any statement or communication it deems necessary." Broadcasts are announced as emanating from the government. As does the high authority for audiovisual media in France, the law provides "that the members are appointed by decree of the president of the republic, and under the French system, an audiovisual communications board, with advisory powers, is established." This national council can be consulted by the government in the exercise of the authority granted to it by the law. The minister further added that the French law "gives the government the authority to appoint the president and the director general of the administrative boards."

This law also provides for the annual distribution by the prime minister or the minister delegate of the income obtained from fees and advertising.

The minister assured the chamber that the government has no intention of promoting Creole and Bhojpuri to the detriment of other languages in Mauritian classrooms. "On the contrary, it is my fervent wish that we should preserve our rich cultural and linguistic heritage, which is a unique feature of our country," Mr Boodhoo said. He stated that provisions which should dispel any fear on this subject have been included in the draft law.

"In introducing the new legislation, it was our thinking that the MBC is a national station financed by public monies. With the new law, we are providing the MBC with an opportunity to adapt to change," the minister further said. "The MBC is enjoined to provide independent, impartial and objective broadcasting services of information, education, culture and entertainment." He said that he hopes to see television become "a great liberal education" and not his own personal preserve, as some individuals would have it believed. He said that he expects the MBC to play an important role in the development of the country.

In conclusion, Mr Boodhoo said: "We are aware of the serious limitations within which it has to work. It is not going to be easy but it is a great challenge that I am sure it is willing to take."

In endorsing the draft law, Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth said that the presentation of this legislation comes within the framework of the changes promised by the present government. "We have no intention to have a retrograde process. On the contrary, we want to achieve the goal set."

Mr Jugnauth said that the government did not amend the old legislation to perpetuate the old regime's "show," because it has principles it intends to respect, designed to serve the Mauritian nation. The prime minister gave a guarantee that the government will not use television to "suffocate or strangle" the population. He believes that the MBC should not have complete autonomy. He believes that it is necessary for the government to exercise a certain control over it. He also believes that with this legislation, the MBC will play an important role in promoting the Mauritian character and nation.

When put to a vote, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation Bill, as well as the National University of Mauritius (Provisional Council) Bill and the State Trading Corporation Bill were approved by the legislative assembly.

10 Amendments and a Split

"There was very nearly an outburst of temper on the part of certain parliamentarians and a breakup of the government coalition." This was the feeling voiced to L'EXPRESS by certain government representatives who participated in the various meetings of the mixed committee held to reach a consensus on the draft MBC law. In fact, those who maintained that too much authority had been entrusted to the minister of information carried the day, because they were successful in getting no less than 10 amendments made to the initial draft law. In view of the development of the situation and what the politicians are seeking to ascribe to the PSM alone, that party made it clear in the parliament, through its leader, Mr Boodhoo, that the draft law is a matter of collective responsibility and that it derives from the joint government program. It appears that certain ministers who supported the draft law in the Council of Ministers have had to reverse themselves in order to support the 10 amendments proposed, which led to a coolness between the MMM and the PSM.

Information Minister Explains

Port Louis LE NOUVEAU MILITANT in French 6 Oct 82 p 4

[Excerpt] "Radio broadcasting is a source not only of entertainment, but also information, culture and enlightenment. It has a potential and it is a powerful tool which can play an important role in consolidating national unity, identity and conscience, if used judiciously and correctly. For this reason, Creole and Bhojpuri will have the place they deserve where the corporation communications media are concerned."

Preservation of All Languages

Harish Boodhoo gave assurance that these two languages will not be promoted to the detriment of English, French, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, Mandarin, Hakka and Cantonese." On the contrary, it is my fervent hope that we can preserve our cultural and linguistic heritage, a unique characteristic of our country," he added. "These languages will have their

place on the island of Mauritius in the year 2000. They have contributed greatly to the richness of our culture and it would be a sin to neglect them."

The minister of information said that the new draft law guarantees the right of response to any person who feels that an MBC broadcast has done him injury.

"In a plural society like ours, faced with the problem of developing a sense of national identity, solidarity and effort, the role of the mass media is crucial and decisive," the minister said.

Parliamentarians' Views

Port Louis LE MAURICIEN in French 6 Oct 82 pp 1, 5, 8

[Excerpts] In the opinion of Mrs. France Roussety, a number of the clauses in the draft law are in conflict with the MMM/PSM government program. How can one expect that the corporation cadres will show creativity when, according to clause 28 in the text of the law, they will have to show servile obeisance to avoid "being kicked out" as the former director general was, she asked. She said that this clause in the law provides that the board of the MBC must submit to the directives issued by the minister of information, and yet there is surprise that the public is shocked by the draft law. The minister of finance likes to say that the country will never again be governed by the authorities with arrogance. Now the public expected changes in the MBC-TV, not the seizure for himself of so much power by the minister.

Mrs. Roussety concluded with the suggestion that the draft law be submitted to a referendum so that a broad national debate can be held, in view of the importance radio and television have in the lives of the citizens of Mauritius.

Mr Sylvio Michel was the only deputy to criticize the MBC Act yesterday.

At the beginning of his speech, Michel reproached Minister of Information Harish Boodhoo for "wanting to move a little too fast with this law." He reminded the minister that the French socialist government has taken more than a year to reorganize the radio and television services.

The MMM deputy believes that the minister should have circulated a white paper on the functioning of the MBC before submitting such a draft law, in order to allow those involved to express their views. Any hasty decision concerning this body can only be harmful, he said.

Before submitting a law of this sort, the minister of information should have created "the desired ambience and atmosphere," the speaker explained. He then went on to express the hope that with this law, the MBC will not come to resemble a Third World station. The news disseminated by the MBC should be impartial, and the corporation journalists should carry all the news, whether

it comes from the opposition or from the street, and it should take a stand. It should not become a misleading jumble. "Moreover, I do not believe that this is what Mr Harish Boodhoo has in mind," he went on to say.

Speaking of the AFP and Reuter news reports, Mr Michel said that these two agencies give an erroneous idea of what is happening in Africa, and other supplementary news sources need to be found, more particularly where Africa is concerned.

The deputy then, in discussing radio and television programs, said that Western culture has dominated all others in the past. But, he explained, the cultures which were dominated in the past must not pursue a policy of vengeance today.

5157

CSO: 5500/15

ZAMBIA

POWERFUL TRANSMITTER TO IMPROVE RADIO RECEPTION

Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 29 Oct 82 p 5

[Excerpt] Zambia Broadcasting Services (ZBS) is to instal a powerful K2.4 million transmitter at Twin Palms in Lusaka which will improve radio reception, ZBS engineer Mr Churchill Mutale said yesterday.

The 500 kilo hertz transmitter will have a radius of 1,500 km at night and 300 km during the day.

Tenders for the project have already been awarded and work was expected to start toward the end of next month, Mr Mutale said.

Mr Mutale was confident that once this transmitter was installed, reception in neighbouring countries tuning in to Radio Zambia would improve.

He said this at the mass media complex when Finance Minister Mr Kebby Musokotwane and Works and Supply Minister Mr Haswell Mwale, who is also acting minister of Power, Transport and Communications, toured the complex.

Mr Mutale told the two ministers who were accompanied on the tour by ZBS director-general Mr Alport Phiri and the director, Reverend Roger Ng'ombe, that radio reception had improved since ZBS started equipping provincial capitals with transmitters.

But he explained that all rural provincial capitals--Mongu, Chipata, Kasama, Mansa and Solwezi--needed to be equipped with 50kh transmitters for effective transmission.

According to the Third National Development Plan, (TNDP) the whole country needs 25 transmitters located in various areas to boost transmission.

Mr Mutale expressed disappointment at the slow progress made at Solwezi where buildings to house television equipment are currently under construction.

He noted that while construction of buildings had been completed at Mansa, only foundations had been dug at Solwezi. Tenders for the installation of television equipment in the two areas have already been awarded.

Mr Mutale was, however, delighted with progress made in Mumbwa and Mpika where television equipment was being installed and it was hoped these would be operational by the end of this year.

CSO: 5500/28

NEW SATELLITE STATIONS, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

Nicosia O AGON in Greek 11 Oct 82 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] In the next 5 years the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority [ATK] will install two new satellite stations. One will connect Cyprus with Indian Ocean countries; the other will connect it with Europe and will receive and transmit TV programs.

The above is included in a statement to this newspaper by Andreas Dimitriadis, president of the ATK Administrative Council. The statement is as follows, in part:

"In its effort to improve the system providing information to the public, ATK undertook to import new modern (electronic) equipment, part of which has already been installed. It is anticipated that the new system will serve all subscribers on a countrywide basis by the end of 1982. The ATK plans for the next 5 years will, in part:

"a. Extend the network to all urban and rural areas so that it will be able to provide telephone service to all inhabited areas of the island by the end of 5 years. ATK aims at increasing the number of subscriber lines from 16 to 30 for every 100 persons.

"b. Provide additional services and accommodations to the subscribers.

"c. Expand the telex network for serving the island's subiness and industrial sectors.

"d. Expand our international network by installing:

"1. A second satellite ground station INTELSAT for connecting Cyprus with Indian Ocean countries.

"2. A third satellite ground station INTELSAT for connecting Cyprus with Europe. This station will receive and transmit TV programs to and from Europe.

"e. Connect major cities with underground cables. This will result in an increase in the circuits. There will be alternate channeling through the relay stations in the event the shortwave circuit fails.

"f. Install equipment making possible the locating of persons out of contact.

"g. Install high frequency stations for improving the radio-navigation service.

"It is ATK's main objective to continually follow the technological developments in the field of telecommunications so that the Cypriot people will be as advanced in this sector as the people in developed countries."

7520

CSO: 5500/4721

CYPRUS

BRIEFS

CLOSED CIRCUIT TV CHANNEL FOR BRITISH BASES--Larnaca, 13 Oct (from our correspondent)--A TV station on the British bases in Cyprus is expected to start telecasting early in April, according to reliable sources, which added that within the next 2 weeks Britain will approve the appropriation for it. The timetable calls for the station's first telecast on 1 April. According to the same sources this station will have a closed circuit TV channel as is the case with private stations abroad. Its transmissions will be regulated by a special computer attached to each TV receiver so that only British citizens will be able to see the telecasts. The authorities of the British bases reached the decision to install such a station following the failure of negotiations with the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation /RIK/ about establishing a regular TV station. Specifically, during the negotiations the Cypriot side asked for a compensation of 500,000 pounds which was rejected by the British authorities which, on their part, had proposed, among other things, reduction in the cost of programs provided to RIK by BBC. RIK rejected the proposal thus creating a deadlock in the negotiations. The British government then decided to establish a closed TV circuit channel. The station will be built at the Dikeleia British base and it will be of limited power. It will telecast its programs to Episkopi by cable. Most of the station's programming will be relayed by BBC's TV station. /Text/ /Nicisoa 0 FILELEVTHEROS in Greek 14 Oct 82 p 10/ 7520

GSO: 5500/4701

BUNDESPOST TO INTRODUCE VIEWDATA SYSTEM

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Oct 82 pp 48-49

[Text] In September 1983, in time for the Berlin Radio Fair, the Bundespost will introduce its new viewdata medium on a national basis. The system (acronym: Btx) is transmitted via telephone lines and can be viewed by the home user via an electronic adapter and dial on his own TV screen; he can even use the remote control switch on any modern set.

The subscriber will be connected to a large-scale Bundespost computer in which millions of viewdata pages will be stored electronically. Each page can accomodate up to 24 lines of 40 characters each or, for that matter, raster images reminiscent of Roy Lichtenstein computer graphics.

A specific set of numbers on the touchtone dial brings the desired page onto the screen, the subscriber being able to feel his way through the electronic labirynth by means of a "locator tree."

Thus, private enterprise is gaining access to home television screens via a new medium: for a fee anyone can have his information stored in the Bundespost computer. Trial runs in Berlin and Duesseldorf have shown business to be the primary user of the Btx system.

The attractiveness of the new service is somewhat reduced because of the fact that no moving images but only pages of text can be transmitted--the capabilities of the telephone lines not being adequate to that task. Under the circumstances, the Bundespost did not have an easy time collecting the projected number of subscribers in the course of the trial runs which started in 1980.

At the other end of the line, those interested in the service are beginning to queue up. The maximum number of 1,500 suppliers of information per test area has already been reached; several hundred firms could not be accomodated.

On some 300,000 Btx pages the subscriber has an opportunity to get close to life as it really is. If he dials No 163203 in Berlin, for example, the screen will show the offer by the "super girls at Club Astoria" who will "get you back in shape" and image 32 provides a complete layout of the establishment itself.

The GENERAL-ANZEIGER, a daily for East Frisia in Rauderfehn, supplies the subscriber with the newest East Frisian jokes among other things after extending a "my, my, look here" greeting to him.

The East Frisians for that matter managed to sell a horse with the help of a viewdata advertisement--and that is no joke.

Often enough, however, the subscriber may dial but will still get nothing in return. In order not to miss connections to the new media future, many firms present a "pilot page" announcing that they have joined the program but that will be the extent of it. The cost of filling up the pages seems too expensive for them--with Btx agencies charging more than DM 20,000 for the production of 100 pages.

The experiment has produced measurable profit for some of the participating mail order firms like Quelle, Neckermann and Otto thus far.

According to the Bundespost, some 3,000 trial subscribers ordered goods valued at DM 10 million via Btx during a span of about 1 1/2 years. The mail order firms stored their catalog offerings on viewdata pages--some of them in their own computers which are linked to the main Bundespost data bank. The customers thumb through the electronic catalog and pick out what they want via their touchtone dial.

Even if Btx does not make for additional sales, it does provide substantial gains in terms of rationalization. If more orders are placed via Btx, the print runs of the expensive color catalogs could be trimmed and input costs for ordering data can be reduced as well--as the customer himself does the job.

Banks and travel bureaus are thinking along the same lines. Via an expanded keyboard containing letters and numbers similar to a home computer customers are even now able to input transfers via Btx into the bank computer and get a statement of their account. Once Btx covers the entire FRG, the banks may be able to cut down on their costly network of branch offices.

Things would hardly be any different in the tourist industry. The customer can go through the color catalog of offerings and then do the rest by punching in his bookings.

Almost 90 percent of the Berlin Btx subscribers have said they want to keep the Btx after the trial run, a poll has shown. About two-thirds of them said the main reason for it was that it enabled them to order merchandise, make bookings and transfer funds around the clock.

But these numbers do not tell much about in-depth impact. Munich communications expert Wolfgang Langenbucher says that the test subscribers in Berlin and Duesseldorf are "technology freaks" for the most part who are inordinately fond of electronic gadgets.

But by as early as 1984, the Bundespost expects to be able to offer Btx service to about half of its 18 million telephone subscribers and a year later almost 80 percent will have an opportunity to avail themselves of it. By 1986, the Bundespost hopes, the Btx subscribers will number one million. More modest estimates by the management consulting firm of Diebold, which has been promoting Btx at conferences of its own, place the number of subscribers at half a million by 1986.

Future costs have introduced an uncertainty factor into the equation. In 1983, a television set with Btx capability will cost about DM 1,000 more than a conventional set. It will take mass production and highly integrated microelectronics to lower cost to perhaps DM 600.

The monthly Btx fee should be substantially below DM 10 according to Hans Matthoefer, the postal minister who was ousted last month.

Every conversation with the Btx computer will be calculated at the 23 pfennig telephone time pulse rate. In addition to that, Btx suppliers can charge the subscribers a fee of up to DM 9.99 according to the projected per page rate. But the suppliers will have still another fee to remit to the Bundespost--the exact amount is to be announced by next spring.

The Bundespost expects Btx to be a big revenue earner in the future. By the mid-eighties at the latest, every German household will have a telephone. And after that, Btx is to open up a new source of revenue. The Bundespost is hoping that Btx will lead the subscribers to order extra extensions because the first extension will be busy whenever Btx is in use.

In the meantime, some skepticism has been voiced on the suppliers' side with reference to Schwarz-Schilling's announcement of "investment impulses" in favor of cable technology because Btx could be transmitted much more efficiently via cable. There could be moving images and transmission of great amounts of data at high speeds. If this process could be introduced more quickly in the course of cable expansion, "Btx might be out the window," as one Btx promoter in Munich has been heard to worry.

9478

CSO: 5500/2525

BRIEFS

BROADCASTS TO GDR--At the inauguration of a new 500 kw longwave transmitter for Deutschlandfunk in the Odenwald, the Minister for Post and Telecommunications Schwarz-Schilling last weekend clarified the FRG government position on frontier-surpassing radio transmissions. He welcomed the fact that this strong new transmitter will make it possible for programs to be heard at great distances from the FRG. The FRG, Schwarz-Schilling said, will be trying to intensify the free flow of information and opinion beyond its borders; nor is it at all afraid of transmissions aimed in its direction. In saying that the selfsame principles of tolerance and liberality apply to such broadcasts, Schwarz-Schilling was specifically referring to the UNESCO charter without mentioning, however, that that particular UN body is constantly trying to regulate, ration and otherwise limit the free flow of information. On the same occasion, Deutschlandfunk Director Becker said that his broadcasting organization is trying to enter the broadcast satellite field. In addition, it is planning to build 16 FM stations along the borders of the FRG "not the least purpose of which is to reach listeners in the GDR." [Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 25 Oct 82 p 5] 9478

COMPUTER NAVIGATION--As part of the "ship of the future" project supported by the Ministry for Research and Technology, the Hamburg engineering firm of Schiffko is working on a data collection and information system for ship operation and navigation. Programs are being written for computer-supported supervision and organization functions such as repair and maintenance of machinery, equipment and systems; the warehousing of spare parts, expendable items, fuel and provisions as well as the preparation of systems biographies specifications. The navigation system is concerned with the processing of data on weather, cargo, stores, voyage, position, area surveillance, resistance, stability and operating condition in order to enhance safety and efficiency of ship operation. Schiffko is developing the necessary EDP programs and conducting initial tests with them in their own offices. [Hamburg DEUTSCHE VERKEHRS-ZEITUNG in German 5 Oct 82 p 14] 9478

CSO: 5500/2525

SWEDEN

MORE DETAILS REVEALED ON EXPERIMENTAL VOICE-ACTIVATED PHONE

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 27 Sep 82 pp 1, 11

[Article by Lars Porne]

[Excerpt] Most people think of a telephone as something we speak through. The person we talk to is at the other end of a system of wires and exchanges and electronic equipment.

Now there is something totally new---a telephone we can talk to. In other words, if you want to call Karlsson, you tell the phone and it calls Karlsson.

This wonderful device was demonstrated for the first time on Tuesday by LM Ericsson Telemateriel AB in Stockholm.

Marketing chief Jan Lovberg pressed a button and said, "Curt Sundman." The phone understood immediately and a voice was heard:

"Sundman speaking!"

The phone had called Sundman by itself.

Obviously, this new phone understands what you say. Assuming that the phone can be kept from eavesdropping and calling people at the wrong time, it could be a big hit on the international market.

"I believe our system is the first in the world," said marketing chief Lovberg.

"Personal speech recognition" is the name of the feature LM Ericsson has added to its familiar intercom system. The Institute of Speech Transmission and Musical Acoustics at the Stockholm Institute of Technology helped develop this miracle of modern science.

It was easy to see that the music acoustics experts had participated, because when Curt Sundman said "Music!" to the phone, it started playing music.

It is wonderful to have a telephone you can talk to--it seldom contradicts you.

Instead of looking through pages of numbers and dialing when you want to call someone within the company, you simply say the name of the person you want

to call.

A number of names are programed into the phone, which immediately stores them in its memory.

It also is possible to program the phone for that employee whose name you never can remember.

"What's-his-name!" you say to the phone.

"Karlsson speaking," you hear at the other end--if Karlsson is the one you always forget.

So far the new invention can be used only in intercom systems.

In my naivete I believed, for example, that I could be talking about Karlsson and saying that I never wanted to talk to that fool Karlsson again.

"Karlsson speaking," the telephone would say and he would be listening at the other end.

Such painful situations are impossible, however, since it is necessary to push a button on the phone before telling it to call someone.

Speech recognition systems have many potential uses. A crane operator, for example, could simply give the commands "up," "stop," or "down." These same commands could be given to an elevator.

In any event, it is believed that the new system will be work-saving. All the time now lost looking through telephone books will be saved and the extra 20 to 25 percent charge for the intercom system soon pays for itself, according to LM Ericsson.

One potential problem is that my telephone could obey my voice and ignore others. If someone borrows my phone and has a completely different voice, for example a mezzo-soprano, the phone ignores the person's voice.

This type of phone system within a company can memorize 3,500 different names. The names are easily programed by dialing a code plus the telephone number in question and then repeating the person's name until the phone is satisfied.

Technology certainly is wonderful!



Here is how the telephone looks. In this case the phone's owner wishes to call someone named Erik. He simply says (preferably with authority in his voice) "Erik" and the phone understands and calls Erik.

9336

CSO: 5500/2511

END